• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXI OCTOBER, 1954 NUMBER 10

Aqueduct Expansion Work Increased to $75,000,000

Extensions to the Colorado River aqueduct system are being increased to include a $75,000,000 construction program, it was announced this month.

In announcing the expanded work, Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the District, said that earlier plans called for a $52,000,000 expenditure.

"The tremendous increase in the population of the Metropolitan Water District and the marked industrial growth of this Southern California area makes it necessary to push forward this major aqueduct expansion program," Mr. Diemer said.

Two pumps, each capable of lifting 90,000 gallons of water per minute, will be added at each of the five pumping plants along the aqueduct which are now equipped with three pumps each, Mr. Diemer stated. These pumps, with motors and steel delivery lines call for an investment of $11,500,000. In addition, in Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles counties, $63,500,000 is being invested for additional distribution system pipelines and the new Garvey reservoir in the Monterey Park area.

"There will eventually be nine pumps at each pumping plant and the ultimate capacity of the aqueduct will be in excess of one billion gallons of water a day," Mr. Diemer declared.

"Work is now under way on most phases of the expansion and the balance has been authorized by the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District," he pointed out.

In addition to the $75,000,000 program, the District is also paying one-half of the $18,000,000 new San Diego delivery line which was completed and placed in operation last week. This line is the second barrel of a delivery system that has been serving the San Diego region with Colorado River water for several years.

This giant, 108-inch diameter pipe is part of the lower feeder between the Cajalco Tunnel and Corona about two miles west of Lake Mathews. Here a cast-in-place section makes the bend to start back up hill. This line will be extended within a few years to intersect the middle feeder just north of the Garfield and Southern Avenue crossing.

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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Board Members Tour Feather River Project

At the invitation of State Engineer A. D. Edmonston, a number of members of the District's Board of Directors and staff made a three-day motor tour over certain portions of the proposed Feather River water project. The tour started in Sacramento and was made by bus on October 7, 8 and 9.

Led by Chairman Joseph Jensen and General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, the official party assembled in Sacramento on the morning of October 7. There they boarded a Greyhound bus and spent the day traveling to the site of the proposed Oroville dam and back to Sacramento. At the site of the Oroville dam, State Engineer Edmonston and members of his staff outlined the proposals of the State Engineer's office with regard to the building of a huge dam on the Feather River for the multiple purposes of flood control, water storage and hydroelectric power development.

A luncheon meeting was held in Oroville on October 7, and a dinner meeting in Sacramento in the evening of the same day.

On the morning of October 8 the party left Sacramento by bus, and was conducted over portions of the proposed Feather River water delivery line as it has been projected southward to Southern California.

The party reached Taft Friday evening where it spent the night. At a dinner meeting in Taft members of Mr. Edmonston's staff explained various phases of engineering work that thus far have been carried forward on the project. Saturday morning the party continued southward, arriving in Los Angeles early in the evening.

In brief talks made by Chairman Jensen and other members of the party in Oroville and Sacramento, an active interest in the Feather River water project was expressed. Chairman Jensen stated that the Board was seeking information as a means of arriving at a determination of the District's policy with regard to the project.

"We are seeking information, and we hope that we will come to a better understanding of our mutual problems with our neighbors in the central and northern part of the State," said Chairman Jensen.

"We are indeed happy to have this opportunity to obtain firsthand views of this wonderful country and to get better acquainted with our fine neighbors in this part of California.

"The Metropolitan Water District is engaged in delivering Colorado River water to areas and people within the District. The District now covers an area in excess of 2600 square miles in the five counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego, and has a population of more than 5,000,000. Our Colorado River Aqueduct represents an investment, up to date, of more than $270,000,000, and by the time it has been brought to its full capacity it will represent a future financial obligation on the part of our people amounting to more than $500,000,000. It will be capable of meeting the water requirements of an additional 4,000,000 people in Southern California, and a corresponding expansion of industry and business.

"It is indeed fortunate that our legislators and water officials, north and south, are studying our water problems on a state-wide basis," Chairman Jensen concluded.

Mr. Frank B. Durke, Director of Public Works for the State of California, accompanied the District party throughout the larger part of the tour. In addition to State Engineer Edmonston, his office was represented on the trip by a number of his engineers, including Assistant State Engineer T. B. Waddell, Assistant State Engineer Gerald H. Jones, and Principal Hydraulic Engineer Theodore Newman.

Besides Chairman Jensen and General Manager and Chief Engineer Diemer, the official party included Directors Luther C. Anderson, Robert E. Austin, Warren W. Butler, Ransom W. Chase, Samuel J. Crawford, Irwin E. Farrar, Floyd E. Fischer, Ben Haggott, Fred A. Heilbron, Richard S. Holmgren, Lloyd C. Leedom, Walter H. Long, A. C. Reynolds and George W. Stevens; also, W. C. Farquhar, President of the West Basin Municipal Water District.

Members of the District's staff who participated in the inspection tour were Robert A. Skinner, A. L. Gram, Harris V. Crawshaw, Charles C. Cooper, Jr., Don J. Kinsey, and Rufus Fee.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed October 1954, covering District operations for September 1954.)

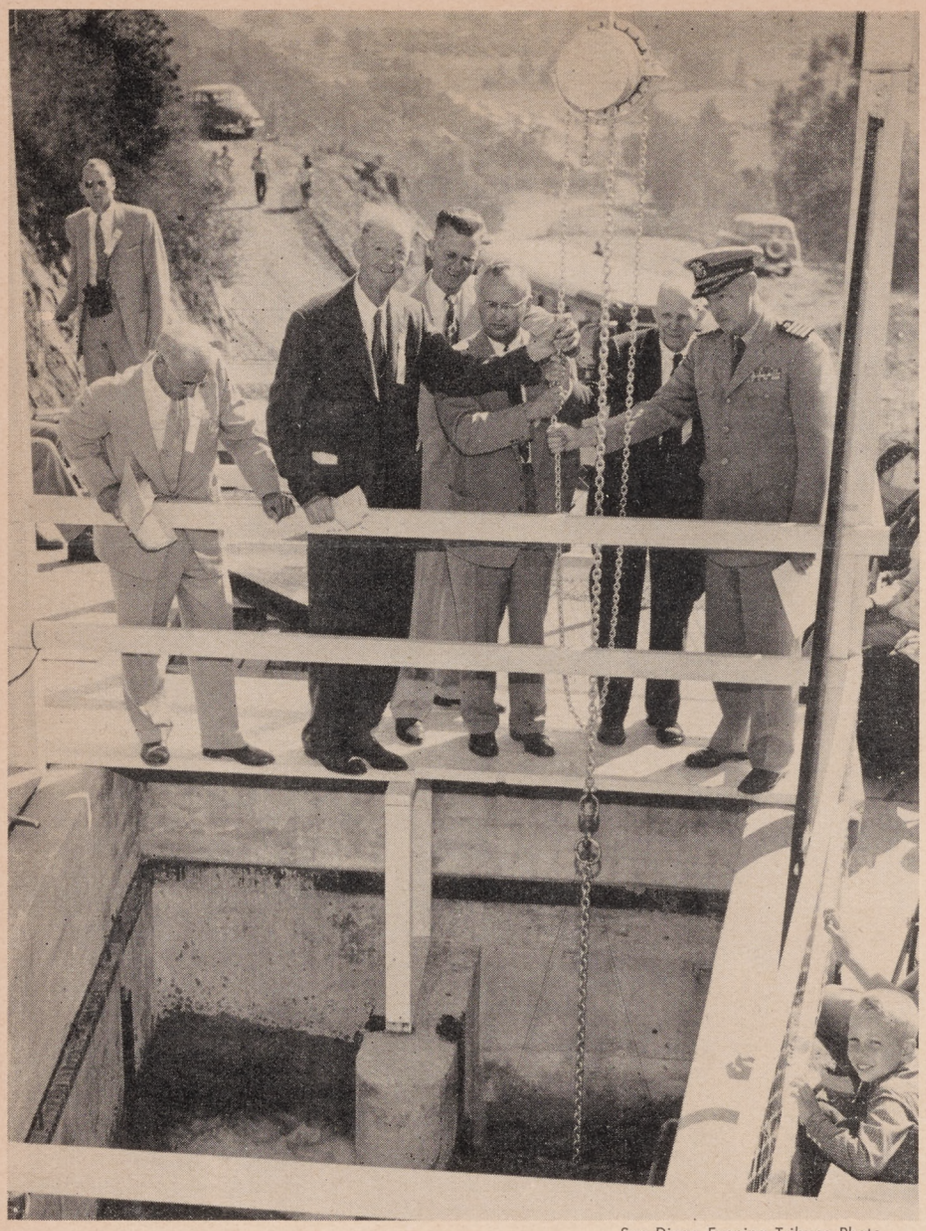
Colorado River — Lake Mead water level dropped 5.43 during September for a new low elevation of 1115.39 feet, and a new usable storage of 13,739,000 acre-feet. This is a decrease of 555,000 acre-feet for the month and 4,645,000 acre-feet for the year. At Hoover Dam the discharge was 15,600 cubic feet per second in September as compared with 14,100 cfs last month. Lake Havasu elevation varied from elevation 448.7 to 448.0 with an average discharge at Parker Dam of 12,800 cfs as compared with 16,150 cfs in August.

Power and Pumping System — Pumping at Hayfield was continuous throughout the month at the rate of 600 cubic feet per second with three pumps operating. Peak delivery of power to the Edison Company was 121,000 kw. Water pumped at Hayfield for delivery to Lake Mathews and San Diego was 35,054.8 acre-feet.

Distribution System — At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant, Colorado River water was softened from 315 to 126 parts per million hardness at the average rate of 233 cfs. The daily average rate of flow varied from a minimum of 178 to a maximum of 303 cfs. The total volume of water treated in September was 13,699 acre-feet.

Construction — Fifty-six contracts totaling $39,960,000 have been awarded for material, equipment and work to be performed on the present expansion program. The middle feeder system is approximately 99 per cent complete at the end of the month. The 8-mile section of 72-inch diameter pipeline from Garvey Reservoir to Southern Avenue is 96 per cent complete. On the 7.8 miles of pipeline from Southern Avenue to Victoria, work essentially was completed on September 30. On the 108-inch diameter precast concrete pipeline between Cajalco tunnel and Corona, 2,773 feet of pipe was laid during the month for a total to date of 5,024 feet for 22 per cent of the contract. On the 4.54 miles of 108-inch pipeline through Corona 2,109 feet of pipe was laid during the month. At San Juan tunnel excavation advanced 976 feet for a total to date of 1,320 feet.

Purchasing — 295 purchase orders and 2 agreements in the amount of $70,059 were issued during September.



San Diego Evening Tribune Photo

District and San Diego officials open the second barrel of the San Diego Aqueduct. Left to right are: Richard S. Holmgren, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the San Diego County Water Authority; Fred Heilbron, Secretary of the District and Chairman of the San Diego County Water Authority; Dean Howell, County Supervisor; E. G. Neilsen, Regional Director of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation; and, Captain C. W. Porter, U. S. Navy District Engineer.

Water Threat Told

"California can expect continued attempts by neighboring states to secure legislation in Congress which would imperil our vital supply of Colorado River Water."

This warning was issued October 28 by James H. Howard, General Counsel for the District, in an address before the Natural Resources Committee of the California State Chamber of Commerce Semi-Annual Meeting of the Southern California Council at the Statler Hotel. Fred W. Simpson, Chairman of the California Colorado River Board, is Chairman of the Committee.

"No doubt the attempt to secure congressional authorization for the construction of the Upper Colorado Basin Storage Project will be renewed in 1955," Mr. Howard declared.

"In addition to the fact that this project is unsound from an economic standpoint, the reports of available water, used by proponents of the project in their arguments, are based on a distortion of the Colorado River Compact," he said.

"California does not enjoy engaging in a cold war with her sister states but so long as they persist in a course of action harmful to California interests, we can have no other policy," Mr. Howard concluded.

San Diego Second Barrel Completed

The second barrel of the San Diego Aqueduct was officially opened on October 2 with formal dedication ceremonies being held at the south portal of Oat Hill Tunnel, eight miles north of Escondido.

More than 500 San Diego County residents attended the dedication which was highlighted by the raising of a concrete bulkhead which permitted Colorado River water to pour through the second barrel and on down to San Vicente Reservoir, storage basin for San Diego County.

The new barrel was built by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation with funds disbursed by the U. S. Navy. The cost of approximately $18,000,000 will be repaid, with interest, by the San Diego County Water Authority and the Metropolitan Water District. It was built in about 22 months, and was completed two and one-half months ahead of the scheduled deadline.

The first barrel of the San Diego Aqueduct has a designed capacity of 85 second feet. Actually, the first barrel has delivered Colorado River water up to 106 cubic feet per second. The second barrel, just put into operation, will double the delivery capacity of the San Diego line. The greater portion of the upper half of the second barrel has a designed capacity of 95 second feet.

Participating in the dedication ceremonies were Joseph Jensen, Chairman of the District's Board of Directors; Fred A. Heilbron, Secretary of the District and Chairman of the San Diego County Water Authority; E. G. Nielson, Regional Director of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation; Captain C. W. Porter, District Engineer of the U. S. Navy; Richard S. Holmgren, General Manager and Chief Engineer, San Diego County Water Authority; Dean Howell, County Supervisor; and Mayor John Butler of San Diego.

Mr. Heilbron praised the early leaders of the County who spearheaded the formation of a water authority and who worked to bring government money for aqueduct projects. Included among the names he mentioned were former Mayor Bacon, Fred Rhodes, Shelley Higgins, Fred Simpson, Don Stewart and Phil Swing.

"Southern California is blessed with men of vision," Mr. Jensen said, "but these projects would not have been possible without the support and vote of the citizenry."

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Bill Kalla, Accountant, enjoyed the "trip of a lifetime" on his vacation recently. He and his wife, Lois, toured 6600 miles by auto, visiting Washington, D.C., New York and many other places along the way.

They took in all of the monuments in Washington, including a tour through the Capitol and stopped off at Niagara Falls, Bryce National Park, Salt Lake City, Denver and Las Vegas on the way home.

They brought back 131 snapshots and 450 feet of color film which they took at various points of interest.

* * *

Lewis Tuthill, formerly a Senior Engineer with the District, was a recent visitor to the Los Angeles Office. He was in Los Angeles to attend the Regional Meeting of the American Concrete Institute.

Mr. Tuthill is now in the Denver office of the Bureau of Reclamation. He was with the District during construction of the Aqueduct and performed most of the tests on the concrete which went into it. Mrs. Tuthill is the former Olga Anderson, also a one-time "aqueducter."

* * *

Leon Stephens, 12, son of Marvin Stephens, Junior Engineer, entered 16 fancy pigeons in the Los Angeles County Fair and won 16 prizes! His birds took 10 firsts, four seconds, one third and one fourth.

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A large number of District employees attended the 35th Annual Conference of the California Section of the American Water Works Association which was held at Long Beach, October 27 to 29. District Director Ransom W. Chase spoke at the Friday Morning Session on "New Water Legislation."

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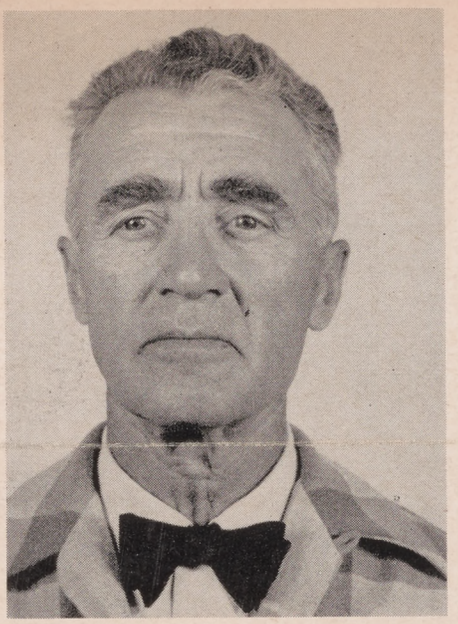
District Directors Ben Haggott and A. C. Reynolds and Assistant General Counsel Charles C. Cooper, Jr. attended the Fall Convention of the Irrigation Districts Association of California, held in Grass Valley, October 20 to 22. Director Haggott, speaking as a representative of the Conservation Association of Southern California, spoke at the October 21 Morning Session on "How Can We Protect Ground Water Resources?"

* * *

Bill Eppinger, Assistant Engineer, has resigned from the District to accept a position with the San Gabriel County Water District where he will be Assistant Manager. He will be working with Bill Foerster, General Manager, who is also a former District employee.



Frederick M. Zriny, who retired September 30. He joined the District in April of 1953 as an Associate Engineer and worked all of his time with the District on the Pumping Plant extension design.

Marian Fletcher's friends at the F. E. Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant are glad to have her back at work after undergoing serious surgery. She returned to her job as Field Clerk on October 16 and everyone in the District joins in welcoming her back.

Marian is making excellent progress and hopes to be completely recovered and back at full strength before long. She has expressed her deep gratitude to her many friends in the District for their thoughtfulness, saying that their solicitude has done a great deal to hasten her recovery.

* * *

Friends and former associates of Osmond T. Helpling, onetime District employee, were saddened to learn of his recent death. Mr. Helpling joined the District in January of 1933 in the Transportation and Traffic Division of Purchasing. He was a Traffic Clerk, Senior Grade, when he left in 1938 to accept another position. He was 78 years old at the time of his death.

* * *

Chris Sothern's many friends in the District are delighted with the marvelous recovery she is making from a very serious illness. Although she is still in the Methodist Hospital, she expects to be released in about two weeks and she will convalesce at the home of friends.

Harry Borchardt, Maintenance Man at Iron Mountain, finished the remainder of his vacation on a trip to Oklahoma to visit relatives there. He was accompanied by his son, H. A. Borchardt, on leave from the Air Force.

* * *

Owen Wilson, Senior Engineer, is back at his desk after a Canadian vacation to Vancouver and Lake Louise, returning by way of Montana and Idaho. Owen reports that the country is beautiful but slightly damp.

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Assistant Chief Engineer R. A. Skinner and his wife also enjoyed a visit with our Canadian neighbors, viewing many of the spots of scenic beauty in the great Northwest.

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Robert E. Whaley, Assistant Engineer, has been transferred to Gene Village where he will work on Pumping Plant expansion. He has moved his family from their former home in La Habra to Gene.

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Gordon Martens, Engineering Aide, on construction, is the proud father of a baby boy. The new arrival was delivered at the Pomona Valley Hospital on October 28 weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces. He has been named Craig Alan.

* * *

Inez Brooks, Telephone Operator at the Softening Plant, is celebrating her vacation with her husband, Jack, who is in the Navy and has just returned from a tour of duty in the Orient.

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The children at Hayfield Pumping Station and their parents had a wonderful time at a Halloween Party held at the Kaiser Iron Mine nearby. The party was put on by the Parent Teachers Association of Desert Center grade school.

* * *

Miriam Beamer, General Clerk in the Los Angeles Office, and her husband, Bruce, enjoyed a two week vacation visiting scenic places in Arizona, including Oak Creek Canyon and Capital Reef National Monument. Highlight of their trip was a 135 mile jeep ride into country too rugged to travel by passenger car. They took 120 color slides to remind them of a wonderful time.

* * *

Mrs. Ralph Sams is in the La Casita Hospital in Indio with heart trouble. Ralph is a Maintenance Mechanic at Iron Mountain Pumping Station. The entire District joins in wishing Mrs. Sams a speedy recovery.